



JULY, 1943

VOL. II, NO. 1

# LIBRARY LOOKOUT

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Issued Quarterly by the West Virginia  
Library Commission  
Clara B. Johnson, Executive Secretary

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### INSTITUTES ON WAR AND POST WAR ISSUES

Cooperating with the national library program of institutes to discuss the issues of war and peace and to talk and think about how best to have the libraries serve, four meetings were held in West Virginia: Clarksburg, Charleston, Huntington and Parkersburg. The meeting scheduled for Shepherdstown in the eastern pan-handle had to be cancelled because of difficult transportation problems. The total number of invitations issued was 765, total attendance 201, total number of towns represented 27.

The institute in Clarksburg, April 27, arranged by Miss Ethel Green of the Public Library had the widest representation of any with delegates from eleven towns in eight different counties of the northern part of the state attending. There were nine public librarians, ten school librarians, and eight college librarians, and in addition two trustees and twenty citizens.

Mrs. J. Ransel Romine, a trustee from Clarksburg, served as chairman of the morning session built on the theme: "Our Libraries and America's Future." Miss Florence Reese, an instructor in library science at West Virginia University, brought an exhibit of books for youth to illustrate her talk and she circulated a check list of titles. That well directed reading of well selected books will desirably influence the thinking of the future was a point of emphasis. Her talk was particularly valuable for public libraries in most

of the counties represented at the meeting are greatly lacking in good books for youth.

The discussion following the talk, "The Role of Library Extension in War and Peace," by the executive secretary of the W. Va. Library Commission, revealed the ever present problems of how to secure support to provide the books, materials, and other library services necessary to more general understanding of the issues of war and peace. In most West Virginia counties no tax funds or very inadequate tax money is available.

Questions left open were discussed again at the luncheon to which all the delegates were invited. The sociability of the luncheon was much enjoyed.

During the afternoon session Mr. W. P. Kellam, librarian at West Virginia University Library, presided and gave a review of high lights of the Chicago and Pittsburgh Institutes. Rev. John F. Nelson, Pastor, Central Christian Church in Clarksburg, in presenting the subject, "Can We Win the Peace?" pointed out the obstacles that would have to be overcome. His talk stimulated an interesting discussion from the floor.

Besides the exhibit of books for youth, a display of books listed on the folder, "Mobilizing Our Brainpower," was examined by a good many and the lists were distributed.

The meeting in Charleston on April 29 was unique in our West Virginia series in that three of the speakers were from out of the state. Miss Isobel P. Lynch, acting librarian of the Kanawha County Public Library, who with her staff was hostess, reported that 375 invitations were sent and that 60 persons attended. Of the librarians who came fifteen were from public, three from school and five from college libraries. Eight towns were represented.

Two sessions were held: morning and afternoon with Mrs. Leon Carnovsky of Chicago acting as moderator. As in our other meetings the method used was for the leader to introduce the subject then call on the speaker for development of it, follow his talk with comments and questions from the audience answered by the expert, and finally to summarize in review the points brought up during the session. Mrs. Carnovsky handled the meeting in a very interesting way contributing, too, her own ideas.

Miss Nadine Clark, teacher in the history department of Stonewall Jackson High School in Charleston spoke on the subject, "This is Our War." Mr. Calvin Price, editor of the Pocahontas Times, Marlinton, W. Va., had as his subject, "What we can do now."

During the second session Mr. Robert Blakely, editor of the Des Moines Register and Tribune, addressed the group. He used one of the same points Miss Clark had stressed, that the American people have always been involved in world affairs and cited facts from our history to illustrate how even in colonial times we were fighting world wars. He said our domestic affairs had always involved the domestic affairs of other peoples and visa versa, and that this would become increasingly true in the world ahead. Mr. Blakely said that since we are entering a global civilization of incredible differences and undeniable units there is a need for a project in common. When asked, "What can we do?" he said the question cannot be answered specifically but that there must be emphasis on attitude so when time for making details must come the people will have the intellectual and emotional preparation for making them.

One of the most practical talks for librarians was that of Mrs. Marion Hawes, head of the education department, Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore. From her experience she gave us ideas of how to inform the public through books - and this becomes our immediate job.

Miss Lynch's publicity committee arranged for a number of spot announcements to be given over the local broadcasting stations and the day before the institute a transcription was made for a broadcast that evening in which Miss Leonore White, committee chairman, Mrs. Carnovsky, Mrs. Hawes and Miss Johnson, the state coordinator of West Virginia institutes, took part.

The Kanawha County Library's well equipped book-mobile was on exhibit at the city auditorium where the meeting was held and time was allowed at noon to visit it and to see the main library where special book displays featured the program subjects, and lists, "Let the People Know", were distributed.

The hostess library staff entertained the regional committee and speakers at luncheon and Mr. John Ray, chairman of the County Library board, entertained the speakers and library staff at dinner at the Edgewood Country Club.

The Institute at Huntington, May 14, planned by Mrs. Madalyn Bradford, librarian of the Public Library; Miss Rosa Oliver, librarian at Marshall College; and Mrs. Otis G. Wilson, member of the W. Va. Library Commission, was designed particularly for librarians and citizens of Huntington and Cabell County. Seventy five invitations were extended and a total of 58 signed the register.

The afternoon session, held at the Huntington Public Library, was attended by thirty five people representing libraries, schools and various local organizations such as: D.A.R., A.A.U.W., Woman's Clubs, P.T.A., Army and Navy Mothers, Y.W.C.A. and other interested people.

The speakers were: Mrs. Bradford, librarian, who spoke briefly of the needs and purposes of institutes on the post war issues. Rabbi Lawrence A. Block, who discussed issues which we will have to consider both at home and in the world at large. Mr. O. C. Nutter,

County Superintendent of Schools, spoke of problems the schools are having to meet and of adjustments they will have to make in the post war world. Miss Johnson spoke of the place of library extension during war time.

The evening session began with a dinner at the Johnson Memorial Church. Fifty one persons were present. The following clubs and organizations were represented: three Women's Clubs, P.T.A., Farm Women, County Agent, Better Library Movement, A.A.U.W., Current History, Classroom Teachers, Navy Mothers, Kiwanis Club, Y.W.C.A. and local newspapers.

The evening speakers were Rabbi Block who spoke of the need for overcoming ignorance, indifference and individualism, if we are to develop a lasting peace, and the need for a world Monroe Doctrine to protect that peace.

Dr. Marius Blesi spoke of the humanities in the post war world and Dr. Edward B. Willingham spoke of the values we must not lose sight of, especially of the importance of inter-religious cooperation and the need of understanding people of other creeds and races.

One very valuable result of the Huntington institute was action taken after the dinner program discussion to organize a citizens' library movement for the improvement of and the extension of public library service. Mrs. Dorothy B. Bragonier handled the discussion period for the evening session and Mrs. Roubush served as moderator during the afternoon.

A display in the circulation room of the Huntington Public Library, "Books Hitler Burned," was a very striking one. Copies of a list of books on the war were available to all.

Thirty four people attended the Parkersburg institute representing five towns in the district. Miss Anna E. Taylor, librarian of the Carnegie Library and Miss Ida M. Peters, librarian of Central Junior Senior



High school, were the hostesses. They reported that 125 invitations were sent out. Of the 34 attending nine were public librarians and four school librarians.

Miss Peters presided at both the morning and afternoon sessions and conducted discussions after each talk on the program.

Mrs. Henry Taylor of St. Marys who had attended the Pittsburgh Regional Institute as delegate of the West Virginia Federated Women's Clubs, gave a report of that meeting.

Mrs. Kendall Bryan, Dean of Girls, Central Junior Senior High School, brought out in her talk the value of reading to be informed and to understand ones place in world responsibilities.

In a very frank way Mr. E. S. Shannon, Assistant Superintendent of the Wood County Schools, presented his notion that libraries and librarians may have an influence in forming ideas about the solution of the present conflict, that libraries might become a continuation school for older adults, but that it isn't true - it hasn't happened. There's a lack somewhere. Then he reviewed the areas of deficiency particularly the lack of library facilities in West Virginia. Mr. Shannon said libraries must play a useful part in the lives of people during the war or they will fail to sell the public library to the post war world. Libraries must be vital and functioning. They must be projected in town, county and state. His remarks stimulated quite a little discussion.

Miss Sara Smith, head of the History Department, Central Junior Senior High School, told of the success of a school library project which encouraged voluntary reading of books on the war and on peace planning. It was of particular interest to the school librarians attending.

The West Virginia institutes have been a real stimulation and I am sure have provided many worth while guides for librarians.

## NATIONAL NEWS

The American Library Association inaugurated officers for 1943-44 in Chicago on July 7. Miss Althea Warren, librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library became president, succeeding Mr. Keyes D. Metcalf, director of Harvard University Libraries. Mr. Carl Vitz, librarian of the Minneapolis Public Library became first vice-president and president elect.

Instead of inaugural ceremonies at the annual conference, which has been cancelled for 1943, the new officers were inducted at a dinner in their honor at the Drake Hotel in Chicago.

## POST-WAR STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

To answer your question, "How does our library compare?", a new publication is just out by A.L.A. which will serve as a good yardstick for measuring your library and for planning its development.

Chapters are devoted to public library objectives, standards of service, size and area, standards of finance, of buildings, of book collection, and standards of personnel and of technical processes.

Use it to make a self-survey of your library functions and evaluate your services. Use it in publicity efforts to prepare now for enlarged responsibilities in the post-war world.

Post-War Standards for Public Libraries, prepared by the Committee on Post War Planning of the A.L.A. Chicago, American Library Association, 1943. 92p. \$1.50.

## WHAT OUR BORROWERS SAY

You've heard that the best library publicity comes from the users of books. These excerpts from letters received at the Library Commission from some of our



borrowers are typical examples of response to the state library extension service in West Virginia.

Grafton - "We received the Traveling Library Thursday. Thank you so much for your nice selection, especially the books for the younger children. Our own supply is so limited."

Pt. Pleasant - "Will you please renew the 50 books which you sent us in April that are due July 21? They are being well read so think if we can keep them a while longer they will be very useful. I am enclosing 7¢ in stamps for the special loan of technical books."

Richwood - "Thanks very much for the fine book collection which we received on Wednesday. Many of the books have already been checked out and I am sure the Traveling Library is going to be very popular."

Beckley - "Thanks for sending Tallmadge, The Story of Architecture in America."

Burlington - "The library consigned to me was received this morning. Thank you for this great favor."

Ronceverte - "Have certainly enjoyed these books but the time really did fly. I thought a month was a generous time but I used it all."

Gassaway - "Under separate cover I am returning today The White Cliffs and The Dust Which is God - both were good. Thanks."

Paden City - "Finding out that I can get a loan of new books, for only postage, is one real gain I get from my library work in the club this year."

#### NEIGHBOR STATES AID LIBRARIES

Funds for state aid to public libraries for the development of equalized library service have been currently appropriated in a number of states.

Ohio appropriated \$100,000 (biennium) for state aid in the development of county-wide library service.

Pennsylvania provided \$55,000 (biennium) for state aid for encouragement of county libraries.

Virginia appropriated \$100,000 for 1942-44 as a first provision for state-wide public library development, particularly in rural areas, with emphasis on county and regional libraries.

North Carolina granted \$250,000 for the 1943-45 biennium as state aid for promoting, aiding and equalizing public library service.

Michigan appropriated \$300,000 for the year 1943-44 for state aid for existing libraries and for development of new service.

Louisiana appropriated \$144,820 (biennium) for regional and parish demonstrations under the sponsorship of the Library Commission.

What our neighbor states have done West Virginia can do. Every citizen interested in library improvement for the state as a whole is needed to help in an information campaign. What will you do to arouse the interest and to secure planned action from local leaders and organized groups for state aid for public library service in West Virginia?

#### NEWBERY AND CALDECOTT AWARDS

The outstanding American awards for children's literature were announced June 14 at a dinner in the Roosevelt Hotel in New York given by the children's Library Division of A.L.A.

The final voting of the jury of twenty-two selected for the Newbery Award Adam of the Road, a book by Elizabeth Janet Gray, to whom young people are already

indebted for many good volumes. The runners-up were The Middle Moffat by Eleanor Estes and Have You Soon Tom Thumb? by Mabel Leigh Hunt.

The Newbery Award, conferred upon the author of the best book of the year, is twenty-two years old this spring. The first gold medal went to Hendrik Willem Van Loon for The Story of Mankind, and the list of winners in other years includes Hugh Lofting, Will James, Dhan Gopal Mukerji, Rachel Field and Walter Edmonds.

Adam of the Road is a story of modieval England, at a time when Englishmen were becoming aware of the rights of the common man. The son of a troubadour, on his journeyings through great cities, abbey towns and small villages, rubs shoulders with farmers, merchants and actors who typify the English spirit as it was then and is now. It is illustrated by Robert Lawson, who was himself a Caldecott Medal winner in 1941.

The Caldecott Award went to Virginia Lee Burton for The Little House, the fourth of her happy and colorful picture books. The runners-up were Dash and Dart by Mary and Conrad Buff, and Marshmallow by Clare Turlay Newberry, artists with long records of books that have delighted children.

The Caldecott Medal is given to the artist responsible for the most distinguished picture book published during the year.

Virginia Lee Burton is a young artist who has had a varied career as dancing teacher, life saver and art instructor. She is now living in Gloucester, Massachusetts, with her sculptor husband, George Demetrios, and two children, Aris and Mike. The Little House recounts the experience of a farm cottage which in time finds itself engulfed by the city. In clever and original pictures, it conveys to the very young the transition of the American countryside from rural to urban population.

BOOK WEEK ANNOUNCED

The twenty-fifth celebration of CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK falls on November 14-20. Many of you have shared this program since 1919. Although we can be justly proud of the achievements of the first quarter of a century, 1943 is not a year to rest on our laurels. Fathers, if they are home at all, are working longer hours. Many mothers have important war jobs. Children have more time to themselves with less guidance. Librarians and teachers, therefore, have added responsibilities. Books and the reading habit can be a stabilizing influence while the normal conditions of childhood are disrupted, and of enduring value in the years to come.

Librarians and library sponsors can point out ways to Build the Future with Books. The slogan need not be another catch phrase. To every community in the United States it presents a challenge and an opportunity. Does your locality have adequate reading facilities for young people? Plan programs to convince members of the community that children's books are an important investment for homes, schools and libraries.

All of us are talking about the better world we hope to build. That world belongs to our children. Reading can prepare them to be intelligent and happy citizens. Books about America will develop strong convictions to carry on our democratic tradition. Books about other lands will enable them to regard our allies as individuals and to understand them. Reading can prevent the barriers of racial and national prejudices from being raised in the minds of our young people. Let's encourage the reading habit, let's Build the Future with Books!

The offices of Book Week Headquarters, 62 West 45th St., New York, will again issue poster, bookmarks and manuals.



## ANNUAL PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORTS

Blank forms for essential facts regarding libraries are being sent with the July Lookout. These are to be returned to the Library Commission when filled out.

State-wide statistics will be compiled from the reports and so it is important that forms from every library be sent in.

## KNOW WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

Hughes Wilson of Weston drew the sketch for the cover of this issue of the Lookout. It pictures the public library which serves the city of Weston and Lewis County as told in the following account written by the librarian, Miss Margaret D. Alfriend.

"The Lewis County War Memorial and Louis Bennett Public Library was given to the County of Lewis by Mrs. Louis Bennett as a memorial to her husband, the Honorable Louis Bennett and her only son, Lt. Louis Bennett, Jr., R.A.F., who was shot down in a plane over the German lines in the World War in 1918. Mrs. Bennett had for years entertained a hope that some day Lewis County would have a public library. She offered the Bennett home in Weston as a gift to Lewis County to be used as a library and a war memorial on the condition that it would be taken care of financially by the County. This generous gift was accepted with a deep and lasting appreciation of its worth, and the County Court sets aside each year an assessment to take care of all expenses pertaining to its upkeep.

The staff is composed of Margaret D. Alfriend, librarian, and Lennel A. Stutler, assistant librarian.

At the present time the number of volumes total 17,441. The subscribers total 10,882 (On June 19, 1943).



The circulation for the year will be around 24,000. There are more subscribers reading the non-fiction books than at any time in the history of the library. We circulate all types of books from the ones to the little six year olds who go out so proudly with their first little book to an exciting mystery for relaxation and on to the child who asks for "a true love for Mom and a westerner for Dad."

Just in the last month the Garden Club has planted many shrubs in the Library grounds and has put gold fish in the pool. This makes a very pretty effect with the fountain going constantly.

The Library sponsors the rural Bookmobile service which is under the direction of Mrs. Jessie L. Messenger. Men, woman and children throughout the County have been given a world of pleasure and information who otherwise would not be able to obtain books.

Our war activities have consisted of circulating as many of the books by war correspondents as possible. We have also written reviews of these books for the local papers and had exhibits of war posters, war literature and war books. The Victory Book Campaign has been of help in that it created interest in the war effort aside from supplying books for the service men.

I think the Library should play a large and important part in the problem of peace making. It is a real opportunity to lay a sure foundation in the minds of our readers as to their way of thinking in the crucial problems confronting us in the post war world. Toward this problem, we have books such as A Basis for the Peace to Come, The Making of Tomorrow, Willkie's One World, What America Means to Me by Pearl Buck, Hoover's Problems of Lasting Peace, and others."

#### VOLUNTEERS HELP

The Public Library of Marion County is receiving assistance through volunteers from the County Citizens Service Corps in clerical and stenographic

work and in keeping the rural station libraries in operation. Members of the Corps are aware of the importance of making books available to all the people of their county in wartime.

#### A GOOD START

The Richwood Public Library is one of West Virginia's newest libraries. Started in August, 1942 with an allotment from the city council it had circulated to June 1 a total of 10,837 books from a stock of about 3,000 volumes. Numerous community organizations as well as individuals have made nice contributions.

#### CARNEGIE ALCOVE GIFT

The Library Commission has recently become the recipient of gifts of books from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The books form a collection known as the International Mind Alcove and are chosen from the most recent publications that bear upon the customs, the art, the culture, the government, or the geography of foreign nations and peoples. A wider knowledge of our world neighbors tends to deepen understanding and modify prejudice.

The books come in small installments four times a year and it takes about six years for the Alcove collection to reach the maximum of one hundred books.

Free public libraries in small communities (generally in towns from 1,000 to 10,000 population) which have been established for at least a year are eligible. Any librarian of such a library may apply for an Alcove of books.

If you are interested address Miss Janet Wallace, Alcove Assistant, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Division of Intercourse and Education, 405 West 117th Street, New York City, N. Y.